



SCHOOL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. ERIN RATHKE

As we enter 2026, there is a sense of both excitement and reflection across Eastern Carver County Schools. While the new year has brought its challenges, it has also reaffirmed our deep commitment to two of our greatest responsibilities: safety and learning for every student.

We are proud to share that our schools have seen notable success in both attendance and academic growth, and that is worth celebrating. These successes reflect the dedication of our educators, our partnership with families, and the resilience of our students. The annual State of the District, featured on the next page of this School Report, details the highlights from the past year in ECCS. I hope you'll take time to read more and watch the State of the District video.

As we approach staffing season, we are reminded of how critical it is to have a community that believes in and supports its public schools. The support of our referendum continues to make a real difference. Without it, this season could have looked very different for our students, our staff, and our programs. Thank you for standing with us.

LOOKING AHEAD, WE'RE EXCITED TO BEGIN THE FUTURE FORECAST 2036, A LONG-RANGE PLANNING EFFORT THAT WILL HELP SHAPE THE NEXT DECADE IN ECCS. THIS WORK WILL BRING TOGETHER VOICES FROM OUR SCHOOL BOARD, STAFF MEMBERS, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY TO DREAM, PLAN, AND BUILD WHAT COMES NEXT.

We are committed to continuing to invest in the ECCS Difference. Our difference is grounded in relationships, opportunity, and a belief that every student belongs. That difference exists because of our staff, students, families, and community.

We're just getting started.

In Partnership,

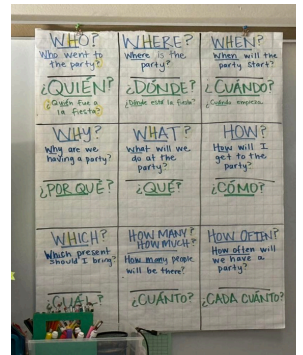
Dr. Erin Rathke
Superintendent

IMMERSION IN ECCS



In Eastern Carver County Schools, language isn't just a subject—it's a bridge to the world. Our unique two-way dual language Spanish Immersion program continues to set ECCS apart from neighboring districts by bringing together native Spanish and English speakers to learn, grow, and lead in two languages.

This year, thanks to the collaborative efforts of a dedicated task force, we are taking the immersion pathway to the next level. We are thrilled to introduce Economics and Geography of Latin America, a new high school course that allows students to fulfill core graduation requirements while maintaining high-level Spanish proficiency.



Beyond the classroom, our high schoolers will now have the chance to use their language skills during an educational trip to Puerto Rico. From navigating real-life settings to diving deep into local history and culture, this trip is designed to solidify both their language skills and their bonds as a cohort. Our goal remains clear: graduating biliterate, globally-minded citizens who are ready to earn the Seal of Biliteracy and college credit before high school graduation.



A weekly book club partners elementary and high school immersion students to focus on literacy. These high school immersion students join La Academia students every Wednesday to read, discuss, and connect in Spanish. This experience allows students to see where their Spanish skills can take them while building relationships with inspiring role models who have walked a similar bilingual pathway.



WATCH THE ANNUAL STATE OF THE DISTRICT VIDEO AND LEARN MORE AT ECCS.MN/STATEOFDISTRICT



2025 was an important year for Eastern Carver County Schools - one in which we tackled challenges and made great strides, and we did it together. This year, our community showed up for us in a major way with the passage of our 2025 referendum. We are so grateful for this investment in our students and our district's future.

Our District's Strategic Plan continues to be our roadmap, guiding our work and supporting our mission, a mission that culminates in our Portrait of a Graduate. This is the ECCS Difference in action, developing our students into well-rounded contributors to their communities, ready for a future we can't even imagine.

Thanks to our community's investment, we will continue to build on our academic achievements. This year our academic celebrations have been many. We are in the top 9% in the state for our MCA reading scores, and the top 8% in the state for our MCA math scores. In fact, our district was recognized at the state and national level for our gains in math achievement. We have seen an increase in scores across all grade levels of 19% - the most improvement of any of our neighboring districts, and our 8th grade math scores put us in the top five schools or districts for growth statewide.

Thanks to our community's support for our schools, we are expanding our gifted and talented programming in our elementary schools. Our advanced academics offer our students enrichment opportunities at every level. We will be able to sustain our investment in an additional counselor at Chanhassen and Chaska High Schools, providing more student support as students navigate their post-graduation options.

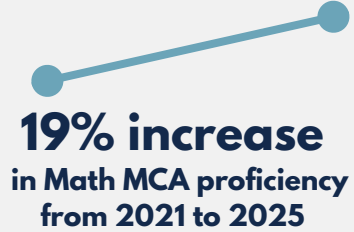
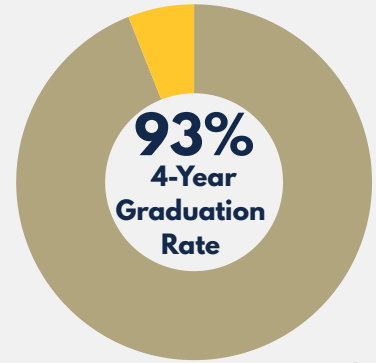
The ECCS Difference is evident everywhere you look. Our robust birth to 22 system, including our incredible Community Education department, creates opportunities for our students of all ages to learn and grow. Our extracurricular and athletic participation rates are unrivaled, as our students benefit from smaller schools and a secondary model that includes two traditional and an alternative high school. On the field, on the stage, and in the classroom, our students are thriving and we have the survey results to show for it.

We serve a diverse community - four cities strong - and the voices, perspectives, and partnerships shared with local leaders, businesses, and community organizations are critical to our students' success. Our shared commitment to our children is a hallmark of our district. This, too, is the ECCS Difference.

The passage of our 2025 referendum marked an important moment for our district, and our community. Our tagline for that campaign was "Shaping our Future" and as a district, we are future-focused. In the weeks and months again you'll be hearing more about Future Forecast 2036. As we prepare to soar into the next decade, we are bringing together parents, staff, community members, and, of course, our students, to help us dream - and plan - for our next ten years. We'll be looking at our demographics, projected growth, building capacity and more as we think about where and how our district will continue to expand. We have our eyes on the future, and making sure our students are equipped to step into a future we can't yet imagine.

The state of our district is strong. While there is always more to do, the growth we are making shows we are on the right path. There are challenges to be overcome, but there is nothing our community can't achieve when we lean in on behalf of our kids.

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

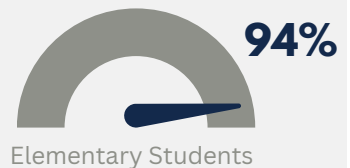


1791 AP tests taken

100+ Bilingual Seal Awards

1356 high school activities registrations

3800 high school athletics registrations



I am seen, heard, valued, trusted and respected for who I am and who I want to be.



I am seen, heard, valued, trusted and respected for who I am and my hopes for my child.



EYE ON ECCS: MONDAY MARKET

“When I see the kids, the families, go through the line, it’s a bucket filler.” That’s the feeling Josie Hoffman experiences each Monday afternoon as students and families from the community enter the east doors at Chaska High School to find tables and carts full of rescued food. The Monday Market is an opportunity for fresh, free food for all families.

“The Monday Market is a powerful example of school and community partnerships done right. This partnership allows us to meet students and families in a heightened moment of need with dignity and care, and support,” said Assistant Superintendent Nate Manaen.



Tara Halvorson, school counselor at Chaska High School and a Monday Market organizer, said between 35 to 45 families on average shop at the food market each week. Students are invited to shop at the end of the school day as well. Some grab an apple or other fruit for a snack, others bring a bag to bring home to their families.

For Hoffman, a county-based social worker at Chaska High School, helping her community is just who she is. Previously, Hoffman said she had made personal deliveries to families that she knew needed the support. Knowing the food insecurities that many individuals and families face, Hoffman and the Chaska High School Care Team went to work.



Volunteers, including Hoffman, her mom Vicki, Halvorson, Martha Brannon of His House, and Greg Pavette from Humanity Alliance, rescue fresh food from local stores Kowalski’s and Lakewinds Co-Op each weekend. Salads, fruits and vegetables, meat, eggs, prepared meals, and bakery items are just some of what is available.

It takes a team of volunteers and supporters to make it all happen. From the Chaska Hawks Boosters supplying refrigeration to custodial staff setting up tables to Chaska High School office staff Lisa Papp, Cindy Brazil, Cynthia Roper, and Maria Wolf, who are there to lend a hand wherever needed.

Students have also gotten involved. Key Club, a student-led service-based organization, regularly has volunteers at the market. Chaska senior Bennett McGlothlin meets the food rescuers every Saturday and Sunday to unload the food onto carts, weigh it, and help move the food into the high school. To date, more than 14,000 pounds of food has been rescued and distributed to students and families.

“Part of what drives me to show up each week is that I get to serve with amazing people. They are a continual reminder that there is good within our community and the world,” McGlothlin said. “Honestly, it’s just all about the relationships that you are blessed to share with not only those serving with you but also those you are serving. Showing up just once or twice would have never amounted to the connection I have with our community. It’s much more than just volunteering. It’s a choice to love others as you dare to love oneself.”

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Hoffman, Halvorson, Papp, and the Monday Market were recognized at the City of Chaska’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day Human Rights Celebration. They received the Chaska Human Rights Award, given annually to a person or organization who has made a positive impact on the Chaska community.

“Food insecurity is a reality in our schools, in our neighborhoods, and in our communities. When the bell rings at the end of the school day, it is beautiful chaos. Students come out of class and pack boxes of food to take home on the bus with them. Other students grab a snack on the way home or to afterschool activities. Families show up to take what they need; some pack an extra box for their neighbor,” Halvorson told the audience at the Chaska Event Center.

At a time when access to food, a fundamental human right, is increasingly uncertain for many families, and those needs feel more urgent than ever, the Monday Market reminds us how powerful compassion and connection can be,” she added. “We were grateful to be part of a meaningful gathering that recognized the Monday Market in Chaska for its consistent dedication to supporting students and staff experiencing food insecurity. Acts of care like these reflect the values Dr. King lived and led with,” the City of Chaska said.



Subscribe to the 112 Online for the ECCS newsletter delivered bi-weekly to inboxes using the online form at eccs.mn/subscribe or use this QR code.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND HONORS

Seniors **Molly Brothers** and **Carter Nesvold** of Chaska High School advanced to the State Semifinals in Public Forum at the MSHSL State Debate Tournament in January. In total, ECCS had six representatives at state. They included juniors **Shino Hammond** and **Clark Hazard** of Chanhassen High School (Public Forum), and senior **Natalie Pfeiffer** and sophomore **Chris Wagner** of Chaska High School (Lincoln-Douglas).

ALPINE SKI: Chanhassen High School senior **Gavin Shannon** and sophomore **Ava Lappi** qualified for a second consecutive season to compete in the MSHSL State Alpine Ski Meet. Ava and Gavin finished fourth and 10th, respectively, at the Section 6 Meet.

BAND: Chanhassen High School sophomore **Noah Gergen** and Chaska High School sophomore **Henry Ray** were selected to the Minnesota Band Directors Association 9-10 Jazz Honor Band. Also named to the MBDA State Honor Band 6-8 were **Raymond Huang** of Chaska Middle School East and **Adria Hanson** and **Zac Pulsipher** of Chaska Middle School West. **Alex Jorgensen** of Midle School West earned the MMEA Digital Music Media award.

ORCHESTRA: **Raymond Huang** of Chaska Middle School East was selected as MNSOTA Middle Level All State Orchestra.

HOSA: Chanhassen High School had six students compete and place in the top three at the Region 1 Mid-Winter Conference in Eden Prairie. With their finish, these six HOSA members will participate in the MN HOSA State Leadership Conference in March. Champions were **Maddie Aulizia**, **Gabby Goin**, and **Celia Biesterfeld** in Medical Innovation, and **Michelle Hjernstad** and **Nancy Nguyen** in Public Health.

ONE ACT: The Chaska Hawks One Act Play, "Night Sky," advanced to the Section 2AA Finals and placed second in the Metro West Conference One Act Festival.

FOOTBALL: ECCS was well represented in the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association All-Star Game in December at U.S. Bank Stadium. Players were **Sam Summer** of Chaska and **Nathan Ramler** and **Owen Linder** of Chanhassen. Ramler was named the South Offensive MVP.

AAA AWARD: Two seniors from both Chanhassen and Chaska high schools were honored as the school's recipients for the MSHSL AAA (Academics-Arts-Activities/Athletics) Award at Region 2AA Banquet in January. They were **Caroline Williams** and **Zane Bacon** of Chanhassen, and **Natalie Pfeiffer** and **Carter Nesvold** of Chaska.



Molly Brothers
Chaska HS



Carter Nesvold
Chaska HS



Natalie Pfeiffer
Chaska HS



Chris Wagner
Chaska HS



Shino Hammond
Chanhassen HS



Clark Hazard
Chanhassen HS



Gavin Shannon
Chanhassen HS



Ava Lappi
Chanhassen HS

Midwest ACDA Honor Choir



Cooper Danielson 8th Grade	Charlotte Grinager 7th Grade	Etta Lopahs 7th Grade	Ilin Nelson-Kumar 8th Grade	Keegan Goettsch 7th Grade	Stella Johnson 7th Grade	Avery Shine 7th Grade	Jenna Smith 7th Grade
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ECCS was represented by eight students from our three middle schools – **Cooper Danielson**, **Charlotte Grinager**, and **Etta Lopahs** from Chaska Middle School West, **Ilin Nelson-Kumar** from Chaska Middle School East, and **Keegan Goettsch**, **Stella Johnson**, **Avery Shine**, and **Jenna Smith** from Pioneer Ridge Middle School – at the Midwest ACDA Honor Choir Conference in February.

Stay Connected

Bluff Creek Elementary: 952-556-6600
Carver Elementary: 952-556-1900
Chanhassen Elementary: 952-556-6700
Clover Ridge Elementary: 952-556-6900
Jonathan Elementary: 952-556-6500
La Academia: 952-556-6300
Victoria Elementary: 952-556-3000

Chaska Middle School East: 952-556-7600
Chaska Middle School West: 952-556-7400
Pioneer Ridge Middle School: 952-556-7800
Chanhassen High School: 952-556-3500
Chaska High School: 952-556-7100
Integrated Arts Academy: 952-556-6200

STAR: 952-556-6120
Family Learning Center: 952-556-6400
Community Education: 952-556-6400
Welcome Center: 952-556-6100
Transportation: 952-556-6160
Nutrition Services: 952-556-6145

ENROLL NOW

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT



Is your child turning five by September 1, 2026? Kindergarten is a magical time when children meet lifelong friends, gain independence, and discover the joy of learning. **At Eastern Carver County Schools**, we don't just teach - we promise a safe, inclusive, and exciting environment where your child's unique talents are celebrated every day.

Choose the Path That Fits Your Child

Every learner is different. That's why ECCS offers three distinct kindergarten programs:

- **Neighborhood Schools:** A robust, well-rounded start focused on reading, writing, and social growth right in your community.
- **La Academia Spanish Immersion:** Our proven two-way immersion program where students learn the full curriculum in Spanish.
- **Kinder Academy:** Perfect for "young" five-year-olds who may need a more flexible pace before moving on to first grade.



Learn more about kindergarten and enroll today:
eccs.mn/enroll

Kindergarten is when children meet friends, gain healthy independence, and learn fundamental lessons that they will carry throughout their lives. It is Eastern Carver County Schools' promise to provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for each child. We know that each child comes to us with a unique set of talents and needs. We value those differences, and we're eager to make kindergarten an exciting and positive learning experience.

Our kindergarten program develops children academically, socially, and emotionally. Students are introduced to reading skills, writing, problem-solving, and are provided personalized instruction and support as they progress. We have integrated S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts into our rich curriculum, and technology is used in the classroom to enhance learning experiences for students. Students also attend specialist classes such as Physical Education, Music, Media, and Art.

To determine your neighborhood school, visit the school finder at eccs.mn/attendance.

Bluff Creek Elementary

2300 Coulter Boulevard
Chanhassen

Carver Elementary

1717 Ironwood Drive
Carver

Chanhassen Elementary

7600 Laredo Drive
Chanhassen

Clover Ridge Elementary

114000 Hundertmark Road
Chaska

Jonathan Elementary

110300 Pioneer Trail West
Chaska

Victoria Elementary

9300 Red Fox Drive
Victoria

La Academia Spanish Immersion

1800 N. Chestnut Street
Chaska

Kinder Academy

1800 N. Chestnut Street
Chaska

READY FOR A CHANGE?

Whether you are brand new to the area or considering a school enrollment change for your child, now is the perfect time to plan for next year.

- ★ **Find Your School:** Use our school finder at eccs.mn/attendance.
- ★ **Take a Tour:** Meet our leaders and see our classrooms in action! Schedule yours at eccs.mn/tour.
- ★ **Enroll Online:** Registration is now open for all grade levels at eccs.mn/enroll.



Whether you'll be cheering
Roll Storm or Soar Hawks,
we would love to welcome
you to one of our
outstanding schools.



Enroll online at eccs.mn/enroll or in person at the ECCS Welcome Center located at 11 Peavey Road in Chaska.

Hours: 7:30-4:00
Phone: 952-556-6112
Email: welcomecenter@district112.org

LEARN MORE